

**From:** James Riordan  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 11:38am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern-

I am writing to comment upon the Microsoft antitrust settlement. I write to you both as an American and as a computer security expert. In the latter capacity, I am currently employed by IBM Research but have also worked for Counterpane Systems and for The Secure Computing Corporation. The opinions herein are mine, and should not be taken as representing IBM as a whole.

I believe the proposed settlement runs strongly against the interests of the American public. It does so both from a short term economic standpoint and from longer term standpoint of promoting a stable and secure information infrastructure. Microsoft's predatory business practices have consistently stifled innovation and superior technologies in favor of a business plan that abuses the Windows monopoly as to lock consumers and business into interminable upgrade cycle.

In this system, Microsoft has no business interest in creating stable, secure, well-debugged and tested software. The bugs force users and businesses to upgrade; the upgrades, in addition to producing revenue, help maintain and expand the monopoly.

Having been found guilty, Microsoft's practices have actually gotten worse. This is evidenced by the release of Windows XP, Passport, and the .NET architecture. Should these technologies succeed, Microsoft's strangling grip will be extended to the entirety of the information based consumer economy (all of e-commerce, music, movies, literature, computer games, et cetera).

Allowing such a monopoly-abusive company effective control over such a large domain is extremely dangerous and, quite simply, unconscionable.

The most effective solution to the current problem would include:

1. Disallowing operating system (Windows) sales agreements to hardware vendors that either preclude the addition of an alternate operating system or force Windows to be installed on all machines.
2. Force the strong separation between fundamentally different layers: operating systems (Windows) , middle-ware (.NET), services (Passport, msnbc and hotmail) and applications.

2. Disallow the forced bundling of components and services from different these layers.

If anything in this message has been unclear, I invite you to contact me via either of the included addresses.

Thank you for your time,

Dr. James Riordan

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